

Take action at DSEi 2011

Monday 12 September

6.30pm-8pm: Silent vigil

Where: Meet at 6.30pm sharp at Tidal Basin Road, E16, near Royal Victoria Docklands Light Railway Station. We will proceed to ExCeL for silent vigil 7pm-8pm.

More info

Please bring a candle. Placards and banners are not needed for this event. This is an initiative of people from local Churches supported by ELAAF. People of all faiths or none are welcome

Tuesday 13 September

All day: A call for action on the DLR

Where: On the DLR

Contact: info@stopthearmsfair.org.uk

More info

The main access route to DSEi is the Docklands Light Railway (DLR), which many of the 25,000 delegates use on the days of the fair. The DLR is one of the only places where us members of the public are visible to the arms dealers at DSEi.

A loud conversation with a friend or a chat with a friendly arms dealer; putting the arms trade on trial or hosting a comedy gig in the carriage – the possibilities for creative action are endless. There have been calls for staggered actions on the DLR which could stop access to the arms fair at ExCel.

Twitter: [@stopthearmsfair](https://twitter.com/stopthearmsfair)

8.30am: 'Bikes not Bombs' Critical Mass cycle ride

Where: Meet at Bank Junction, EC2. Riding to the ExCeL Centre

More info

Bring noise, colour and contempt.

10.45am: 'Sparkles not Shrapnel' sailor bloc

Where: Meet at Old Palace Yard, Houses of Parliament from 10.45am, ready to join in the CAAT parliament action from 11am.

More info

LGBTQ action 'Operation hello Sailor' is calling for sailors from any era... but plastic cutlasses only ("you could put someone's eye out with that"). We shall assemble, share our views with Parliament, talk to MPs before riding the DLR out to DSEi at the Excel Centre to see the sailors on their warships. Entertainment involving glitter and puppets will take place on the way.

If we meet an arms dealer, we shall hand them a black spot and regale them with shanties (maybe) until they beg for mercy, or just talk to them.

Safe-words: No harm to be done in word or deed, please don't assume pronouns, bring nothing you wouldn't want found on your person by the police.

Mailing list: sparklesnotshrapnel@lists.riseup.net

11am-2.30pm: Photo stunt demonstration and mass lobby at parliament

Where: Gather at Old Palace Yard for a stunt outside Parliament

Contact: Campaign Against Arms Trade, outreach@caat.org.uk

More info

2011 is the first time that parliament is in session during DSEi. We want to use this opportunity for as many people as possible to challenge MPs on the reality of the government-supported arms trade – all at the same time.

12.30pm: Action at Clarion Defence and Security offices

Where: Clarion Defence and Security Offices, Earls Court

Contact: Bexley/Lewisham/Dartford Food Not Bombs

More info:

The arms fair goes on behind closed doors - so we will bring it out into the open! We'll set up a (flat-packable) cardboard model of the arms fair, complete with cardboard stalls, cardboard guns and cardboard bombs. We'll set this up outside Earl's Court Exhibition Centre, the central offices of Clarion Events who are organising the DSEi arms fair. People dressed as dictators will mill around with shopping baskets, and we'll have as much information and pictures of the arms fair available as possible. We'll hopefully get a photostunt with the media, and create a stir with the public, particularly the potential buyers attending "Top Drawer" (<http://www.topdrawer.co.uk/>), a retail event also run by Clarion which will be going on in the Exhibition Centre that day - who we will tip off about Clarion's involvement in the arms trade).

2.30pm: Down the Drones

Where: Meet in room 4 at 2.30pm at the CAAT info point to travel together to General Atomics office (located at Tower 42, 25 Old Broad Street, EC2N 1HN. It is 5 minutes walk from Liverpool Street tube.)

Contact: SPEAK and Fellowship of Reconciliation amyhailwood@for.org.uk or lizzie@speak.org.uk. or call 07912 885646 or 07515 942705

More info

This year DSEi has a major new feature – a showcase of Robotics and Unmanned Systems, or 'drones' – the pilotless, military planes that are used in legally dubious targeted killings and are killing civilians in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen, creating anger and resentment towards the West. Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR) and the SPEAK Network are coordinating an action in protest.

We will install a creative, street theatre game outside the new, UK office of Predator and Reaper drone manufacturer General Atomics. The game will involve a large 'human dartboard' installed on the pavement outside. We will be inviting passing members of the public to take a break, take a Playstation controller and play 'remote-controlled killer robots' to discover for themselves how targeted and precise armed drones really are. We will also have protest banners and sing songs of peace. This is a legal, nonviolent protest and we do not intend on our activists being arrested. All are welcome to join us on this basis.

2.30pm: Creative direct action

Where: Meet at Old Palace Yard at 2.30pm to travel to the ExCeL Centre

Contact: Campaign Against Arms Fair, outreach@caat.org.uk

More info

CAAT supporters can gather to head towards the arms fair to take creative, non-violent direct action together.

5pm: 'Die-in' outside BAE Systems

Where: BAE Systems offices, Stirling Square, Carlton Gardens, London, SW1Y 5AD.

More info

BAE Systems is one of the world's largest arms producers which sells arms indiscriminately around the world. It will have a huge presence at the arms fair – let's show them that this is not OK!

Participants can take part in a die-in (lying on the ground to represent victims of the arms trade) or support the action without lying down!

Wednesday 14 September

9am-12.45pm: Debrief session

Where: Room 11, Friend's House, 173-177 Euston Road, NW1 2BJ

More info

On Wednesday morning, we have organised a debrief space for people to use for whatever they see fit, which will probably be sit and have a chat about the day of action.

11am-4pm: March to DSEi arms fair

Where: UEL Docklands-ExCeL Centre

More info

The march will take approx 45 minutes, the protest will last until the 'show ends' at 5pm, so 6 to hound the big cats buying guns and boom boxes.

10am: A march for peace and freedom: End the arms trade!

Defend the right to protest

Where: Meet at Kingsgate House- 66-74 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6SW (home of the government's arms export division, UKTI DSO).

in Westminster for a march to the ExCeL Centre in East London.

Nearest tube: Victoria

Contact: E-mail: vd2012-dsei@yahoo.co.uk. Mob: 07506 234 091

More info

Approximate distance to Custom House DLR (for ExCeL): 8-9 miles (see detailed route info below)

Planned route: Victoria Street, Parliament Square, Whitehall, Strand, Fleet St, Ludgate Hill, Cannon St, Queen Victoria St, Cornhill, Leadenhall St, Aldgate, Aldgate High St, Whitechapel High St, Braham St, Commercial Road, East India Dock Rd, Silvertown Way, Peto St North, Victoria Dock Rd, finishing at Custom House DLR for ExCeL Centre.

Distribution of leaflets to participants entering and leaving the Arms Fair

Contact: Email chrisroper@hotmail.com.

More info

We hope to leaflet one at a time throughout Wednesday and Thursday. Please say which day and time you could do. This action needs people prepared to risk arrest but not provoke it

Thursday 15 September

3.30pm: Disarm DSEi Critical Mass to Arms Dealers Dinner

Where: Meet at Bank Junction, EC2 to cycle to the ExCeL centre.

Distribution of leaflets to participants entering and leaving the Arms Fair

Contact: Email chrisroper@hotmail.com.

More info

We hope to leaflet one at a time throughout Wednesday and Thursday. Please say which day and time you could do. This action needs people prepared to risk arrest but not provoke it

Arms dealers' dinner

TBC

Friday 16 September

2.30pm: Wreath-laying on last day of the fair

Where: Meet at Tidal Basin Road, near Royal Victoria DLR Station.

Contact: East London Against Arms Fairs

More info

You are invited to come with supporters of EAST LONDON AGAINST ARMS FAIRS to float a wreath for victims of the arms trade on the Royal Victoria Dock. You may like to wear black or white, or a black arm band as a sign of mourning.